

Submitter: Anne Vandecoevering  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5525

Senator Janeen Sollman  
Representative Ricki Ruiz  
Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 5525 –Fully Fund Dispute Resolution

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz and Members of the Committee.

Our state has many important funding priorities, including investing in programs that are proven to show that they help to empower people, build resilient communities, and save the state millions of dollars in other costs. Resolution Oregon does exactly that.

I write today in support of Community Dispute Resolution, which passes through Resolution Oregon at the University of Oregon and helps to provide valuable education and mediation services all across the State.

Not only as a program coordinator of the Hillsboro Mediation Program, but as a City of Hillsboro community member, these programs are vital to making our communities more peaceful and livable. Your local Hillsboro program provides a cost-effective (free), accessible way to people to resolve conflicts – whether it's a family disputes, neighbor issues or small business disagreements – without burdening our courts system. It saves time, taxpayer money and preserves relationships in a way traditional litigation often cannot.

This program doesn't just solve problems – it strengthens our community. Continued support means more in your district can access fair, respectful process to resolve issues, especially those who simply cannot afford an attorney or long court battles.

Resolution Oregon's statewide network provides conflict resolution education for youth and adult community members, mediation services, and connects people to local support service providers (e.g., financial resources, legal aid, rehousing & credit

counseling). For more than 40 years, these services have shown to help communities improve graduation rates, reduce crime recidivism rates, and resolve disputes faster and cheaper than courts. These preventative services help reduce community costs for incarceration, health care, associated court costs, and keep people housed who are at risk of foreclosure and eviction.

Please help our vulnerable community members by investing in cost-effective mediation services that are complementary to other avenues for justice. Please fully fund Dispute Resolution in the Statewide Programs section of SB 5525.

Thank you for your service to our state and continued involvement in our district!

Best,

Anne Vandecoevering